

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EB-11 SCS-03 SCA-01 COME-00 SY-10 NIC-01 RSR-01 /118 W
----- 083963

R 020700 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 949

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL ADANA

S E C R E T IZMIR 172

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS/ TU

SUBJ: PASSENGER SHIPPING AS POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN
TARGET

REF: IZMIR 96

1. TURKISH MARITIME LINES SHIP IZMIR WHICH ON CRUISE IN
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN APRIL 18-27 WITH PORT CALL AT
HAIFA APRIL 22-24 WAS OBJECT OF EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY
MEASURES DURING STOP IN IZMIR APRIL 19. CONSUL GENERAL
HAD BROUGHT THIS PARTICULAR CRUISE TO ATTENTION OF
LOCAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES OWING TO FACT THAT 125
AMERICANS, MOSTLY MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS

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STATIONED IN IZMIR, WOULD BE ABOARD (SEE REFTEL).
CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICER AND FAMILY ALSO MADE
TRIP AND HAD OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE GRATIFYING
SECURITY EFFORT UNDERTAKEN BY MITURKISH AUTHORITIES
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THROUGHOUT CRUISE.

2. IZMIR SECURITY AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS CARRIED OUT RIGOROUS SEARCH OF ALL PASSENGERS AND BAGGAGE BOARDING SS IZMIR. DOCK WORKERS LOADING SHIP AND OTHERS IN AREA WERE ALSO SUBJECTED TO SEARCH. AFTER LOCAL AUTHORITIES FINISHED WITH PASSENGERS IN CUSTOMS AREA, PASSENGERS WERE AGAIN FRISKED BY SECURITY PERSONNEL FROM SHIP AT GANGPLANK. AT LEAST 26 TURKISH SECURITY PERSONNEL IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WERE ON BOARD THROUGHOUT VOYAGE, UNBEKNOWNST TO MOST PASSENGERS. ACCORDING LOCAL POLICE SOURCE, 10 OF THESE WERE TURKISH BLU BERETS (COMMANDOS). SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE STATIONED AT SHIPBOARD POSTS AROUND CLOCK THROUGHOUT CRUISE AND TOOK MEALS WITH PASSENGERS. (ONE ATE AT TABLE WITH CONGEN OFFICER.) SECURITY PERSONNEL TOOK PAINS TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH

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IDENTITIES OF PASSENGERS FROM PASSPORTS WHICH UNDER CONTROL OF SHIP PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT VOYAGE. AT VARIOUS PORTS OF CALL, EMBARKATION PROCEDURES WELL-ORGANIZED AND SECURITY POLICE VERY ALERT. THIS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN HAIFA WHERE SS IZMIR SHARED PIER WITH QUEEN ELIZABETH 2.

3. IZMIR'S LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY, YENI ASIR, GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE WITH PHOTOS TO SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH SS IZMIR SAILING. LIKE APRIL 18 TELEVISION NEWS REPORT EMANATING FROM ISTANBUL WHERE CRUISE ORIGINATED, YENI ASIR ASCRIBED HEAVY SECURITY TO PRESENCE ON BOARD OF HUNDREDS OF JEWISH PASSENGERS PLANNING TO ATTEND 25 TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE. ACCORDING YENI ASIR, UNUSUAL SECURITY MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SABOTAGE TO SHIP AND ATTACKS ON JEWISH PASSENGERS BY ARAB GUERRILLAS. YENI ASIR ALSO WROTE THAT MAJORITY OF 137 PASSENGERS BOARDING IN IZMIR WERE JEWISH. IN FACT, MAJORITY OF PASSENGERS

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ON CRUISE WERE NON- JEWISH AMERICANS FROM IZMIR AND

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GREEK PILGRIMS WHO BOARDED IN RHODES.
SMITH

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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